

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

ERDA-05 AID-05 PC-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 EB-07 NRC-05

OES-03 FEA-01 /099 W

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R 150742Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1060

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6449

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, CE

SUBJECT: PAK-SRI LANKA FOREIGN SECRETARIES

MEETING JULY 3-5

REF: ISLAMABAD 5943

SUMMARY: JUDGING FROM THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE PAK-SRI LANKA FOREIGN SECRETARIES' MEETING, THE PAKS APPEAR TO HAVE MADE AT LEAST SOME PROGRESS IN BRINGING THE GSL AROUND TO A MORE FORTHCOMING PUBLIC POSITION REGARDING GOP EFFORTS TO WORK UP A SOUTH ASIAN MULTI-LATERAL DECLARATION FORESWEARING NON-PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR POWER. BUT THE PAKS ARE NOT HOPEFUL THAT THIS CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO IMMEDIATE GSL SUPPORT FOR PAK EFFORTS TO GET THE INDIANS TO GO ALONG WITH SUCH A REGIONAL AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE MFA DELEGATION, BOTH OF WHOM LEFT ISLAMABAD FOR THE JIDDA
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ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE JUST HOURS AFTER

THEIR RETURN HERE FROM COLOMBO, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET ANY AUTHORITATIVE GOP ASSESSMENT OF THE CONSULTATIONS PAK FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD WITH THEIR SRI LANKA OPPOSITE NUMBERS JULY 3-5. JUDGING FROM THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE SESSION, HOWEVER, THE PAKS DO APPEAR TO HAVE MADE AT LEAST SOME PROGRESS IN BRINGING THE GSL AROUND TO A MORE FORTHCOMING PUBLIC POSITION REGARDING GOP EFFORTS TO WORK UP A MULTILATERAL REGIONAL DECLARATION AGAINST THE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR NON-PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

2. AS IN THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN IN SEPTEMBER 1974, WHEN THE GOP WAS SEEKING TO MOBILIZE SUPPORT FOR ITS UNGA SOUTH ASIA NUCLEAR FREE ZONE PROPOSAL, THE SOUTH ASIA NUCLEAR ISSUE IS LINKED IN THE JULY 5 COMMUNIQUE WITH THE INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE CONCEPT. THE LINKAGE IS MORE SPECIFIC IN THE JULY 5 COMMUNIQUE AND THE RENUNCIATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY REGIONAL STATES NO LONGER APPEARS, AS IT DID IN THE SEPTEMBER STATEMENT, SECONDARY TO A REDUCTION IN GREAT POWER ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA.

3. (THE EXACT WORDING OF THE RELEVANT SENTENCES IN THE JULY 5 COMMUNIQUE IS "THE TWO SIDES REVIEWED THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE AND WERE AGREED THAT THE RENUNCIATION OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPON OPTION BY THE LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION WAS VITAL TO SUCH A CONCEPT. IN THAT CONTEXT, THE TWO SIDES CONSIDERED THAT THE CREATION OF NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONES IN THE MIDDLE EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN REGIONS WOULD COMPLEMENT THE OTHER MEASURES BEING INITIATED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION." THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA; PRESUMABLY, THESE ARE ENCOMPASSED IN THE "OTHER MEASURES," A FORMULATION ATTRACTIVE TO THE PAKS WHO HAVE GRAVE RESERVATIONS ON THE ISSUE.)

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4. WHATEVER THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE CHANGES IN PHRASING AND NUANCE, THE PAKS DO NOT SEEM HOPEFUL THAT THEY CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO IMMEDIATE GSL SUPPORT FOR THE GOP EFFORT, FIRST SURFACED BY THEM AT THE LAST INDO-PAK CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI MAY 15-20, TO PERSUADE THE INDIANS TO AGREE TO A MULTILATERAL SOUTH ASIAN DECLARATION RENOUNCING NON-PEACEFUL NUCLEAR USES. ASKED

ABOUT THIS, MFA DIRECTOR FOR SRI LANKA ASMAT HASAN, WHO ATTENDED THE COLOMBO MEETING, SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY, GIVEN THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN NEW DELHI, THAT SRI LANKA WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO USE WHAT HE TERMED HER "GREAT MORAL FORCE" TO INFLUENCE INDIA TO COOPERATE IN AREA MUTUAL SECURITY SCHEMES.

5. DISCUSSING OTHER SUBJECTS RAISED IN THE COLOMBO MEETING, HASAN CONFIRMED THAT THE LENGTHY RECITAL IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE GOP POSITION IN PAKISTAN'S DISPUTE WITH BANGLADESH WAS PROMPTED BY THE INCLUSION OF THAT ISSUE IN THE JAMAICA COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE. HASAN CLAIMED THAT SRI LANKA, LIKE MANY OTHER COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS, WAS ANNOYED AT THE WAY BD MANIPULATED THE ISSUE INTO THE JAMAICA COMMUNIQUE, AND WAS THUS RESPONSIVE TO GOP DESIRES TO USE THE COLOMBO COMMUNIQUE AS A VEHICLE FOR PRESENTING ITS SIDE. BUT THE COMMUNIQUE WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON THE GSL POSITION: THE GSL MERELY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ACTION TAKEN BY PAKISTAN TOWARDS ACHIEVING NORMALIZATION WITH BD AND HOPED ISSUES WOULD BE RESOLVED BILATERALLY.

6. HASAN AFFIRMED THAT THE TWO SIDES ALSO TRADED ASSESSMENTS OF RECENT INDIAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. SRI LANKA'S PRIMARY CONCERN, HE SAID, STEMS FROM AN APPREHENSION THAT ANY LESSENING OF NEW DELHI'S AUTHORITY COULD LEAD TO GROWING TAMIL ASSERTIVENESS TOWARD THE GSL (PRESUMABLY IN THE FORM OF TAMILNADU ASSISTANCE TO TAMIL SEPARATISM IN NORTHERN SRI LANKA, AS REPORTED IN COLOMBO 2095.)
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